



## (2) Environmental Technical Assistance

The Small Business Environmental Assistance Program provides technical, administrative, and regulatory support for small business. The SBEAP staff serve as a liaison between the regulatory agency and the small business. The SBEAP does not have regulatory enforcement authority. Confidentiality is maintained when representing the interest of a small business. The types of assistance provided through the SBEAP include:

- Informing businesses of regulatory requirements that apply to them and the dates these requirements apply.
- Disseminating up-to-date information to the small business community, including easy-to-understand public information material.
- Helping small businesses deal with specific technical, administrative, and compliance problems.
- Making appropriate referrals to assist businesses with specific environmental problems.
- Providing training opportunities.
- Maintaining a list of affected industry for information distribution.

For more information or assistance, call or write:

Tennessee Small Business  
Environmental Assistance Program  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, L&C Annex, 401 Church St.  
Nashville, TN 37243-1533

**1-800-734-3619**

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/dca/index.html>

[BGSBEAP@state.tn.us](mailto:BGSBEAP@state.tn.us)

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access and affirmative action. Contact the EEO/AA Coordinator at 1-888-867-7455 or the ADA Coordinator at 1-866-253-5827 for further information. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service (1-800-848-0298).

To reach your local

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE CENTER**

Call 1-888-891-8332 or 1-888-891-TDEC



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# TENNESSEE



## SMALL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**FREE**  
and confidential help  
for small businesses

**1-800-734-3619**  
**TOLL FREE**



## **OVERVIEW**

The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments established the framework for new regulatory permitting, operating and control requirements that would have a significant impact for some small businesses. Because small businesses could find these new environmental regulations to be complex and, in many cases, difficult to comprehend, the federal legislation required each state to establish an assistance program. Tennessee's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) was established in 1993 to assist small businesses with environmental compliance issues.

To effectively meet the compliance assistance needs of small businesses, Tennessee's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program addresses all environmental media (air, land, water). The program provides free confidential technical assistance on questions regarding regulations and compliance and for other environmental concerns.

## **SMALL BUSINESS CRITERIA**

A company must meet certain criteria to qualify for assistance as a small business. A small business:

- Must have 100 or fewer employees
- Cannot be a major stationary source of air pollution or large quantity generator of hazardous waste
- Does not emit 50 tons or more of a single pollutant per year
- Does not emit 75 tons or more of a combination of regulated pollutants per year
- Meets the federal Small Business Act definition of a small business

## **SBEAP PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

The Small Business Environmental Assistance Program includes the following components:

- 1) A Small Business Ombudsman (Advocate)
- 2) A comprehensive environmental technical assistance program

## **(1) STATE OMBUDSMAN (Advocate)**

The Small Business Advocate (Air) represents small business in air pollution regulatory matters. To ensure confidentiality, the Advocate is organizationally independent of the regulatory program. The Advocate has the authority to identify and propose solutions to small business technical and compliance problems. Other Advocate duties include:

- Work with trade associations to bring about voluntary compliance
- Aid in investigating and resolving complaints and disputes involving small business
- Disseminate regulatory and technical information
- Provide assistance to and cooperation with other small business groups
- Provide direction to the technical assistance program.

